

REMARKS:

- 1) Entry and consideration of this Response after Final are respectfully requested. This Response does not raise any new issues that would require further search or consideration. Instead, the amendment merely adopts the indicated allowable subject matter of prior claim 3 now incorporated into independent claim 1. Thus, the application should now be allowable based on the previously considered allowable subject matter. Also, this is applicant's first opportunity to reply to the new grounds of rejection that were asserted for the first time in the Final Office Action. Therefore, entry and consideration of this Response After Final are appropriate and are respectfully requested.

- 2) The claims have been amended as follows.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of prior claim 3, with a clarification. It should be understood that the stiffening members extend on a radially inward side of the aircraft fuselage skin. The clarification is to avoid an unintended interpretation of prior claim 3 by which the stiffening members must extend longitudinally in a radially inward direction. Such an unintended interpretation of claim 3 would have been in direct conflict with further dependent claim 4.

Claim 1 has further been amended to remove the features previously inserted in the Amendment of October 14, 2005, regarding a "first plane" and a "second plane". It should be

understood that present claim 1 is not limited to a flat planar structural component, but rather also applies to a non-planar curved structural component such as an aircraft fuselage shell. The deleted features are not necessary for patentability, because in the first Office Action of July 15, 2005, the Examiner had already indicated allowable subject matter in the combination of original claims 1 and 3.

Claim 3 has been canceled.

Remaining dependent claims have been amended for proper conformance with the amended parent claims.

These amendments merely involving claim combinations and removing the previously added feature relating to a first plane and a second plane, do not introduce any new matter. Entry and consideration of the claim amendments are respectfully requested.

- 3) Referring to the bottom of page 4 of the Office Action, the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 3 to 6 is appreciated. As mentioned above, independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 3, with the clarification discussed above. The features added to claim 1 in the Response of October 14, 2005 have been deleted as unnecessary to patentability. Note that the first Office Action of July 15, 2005 had already indicated allowable subject matter in the combination of original claims 1 and 3. Also, the amendments of October 14, 2005 in claim 1 were not persuasive of patentability according to the Final Office Action. Thus, currently amended independent claim 1 and its dependent claims 2 and 4 to 16 should now be allowable.

- 4) In the Response of May 2, 2005, applicant elected the product claims for examination and made the non-elected method claims dependent from the product claims. Thereafter, both the elected claims and the non-elected claims were examined. Thus, further examination and allowance of both the product claims and the dependent method-of-making claims are respectfully requested.
- 5) Referring to pages 2 to 4 of the Office Action, the rejection of claims 1, 2 and 7 to 15 (and 16) as obvious over US Patent 1,775,386 (Blondin) in view of US Patent 4,500,589 (Schijve et al.) has been obviated by the present amendment. Since independent claim 1 now incorporates the allowable subject matter of prior non-rejected claim 3, this rejection cannot be maintained. Please withdraw the rejection.
- 6) Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application, including all present claims 1, 2 and 4 to 16, are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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Applicant

WFF:he/4547
Enclosures:
Transmittal Cover Sheet
Term Extension Request
Form PTO-2038

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CERTIFICATE OF FAX TRANSMISSION:

I hereby certify that this correspondence with all indicated enclosures is being transmitted by telefax to (571) 273-8300 on the date indicated below, and is addressed to: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. BOX 1450, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450.

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Name: Walter F. Fasse - Date: April 18, 2006

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